In April, 2006, the Government of India sanctioned funds to the Government of madhya Pradesh for a project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for providing safe drinking water through pipelines from the Kolar Reservoir to 14 localities around the UCIL plant site. The Government of India sanctioned funds to the Government of Madhya Pradesh who sanctioned Rs.14.18 crore to Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) for a project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for providing safe drinking water through pipe lines from the Kolar Reservoir to 14 localities around the UCIL plant site. The work under this project is nearing completion.

Common code of ethics for pharmaceutical industry

1710. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representation from Small and Medium Pharmaceutical Manufacturers in the country to speed up exploration of the option of a common code of ethics for the pharmaceutical industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is a fact that under the pressure of multinational drug companies, Government is not showing any interest to opt for a common code of ethics; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps Government proposes to adopt common code of ethics for the pharmaceutical industry to bring down the prices of medicines at a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) There were some reports in the newspapers in the recent past regarding promotional expenses being made by the Pharma Companies. The reports suggest that some unethical marketing practices are being followed by certain pharma companies. Keeping in view the seriousness of the allegations made in the media reports, this Department felt the need to take up the matter in the interest of the consumers/patients as such promotional expenses being extended to doctors had direct implications on the pricing of drugs and its affordability. After discussing the issues with the Pharma Associations/Industry, this Department has been able to persuade most of the associations to have code of ethics. Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) and Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association have informed that they alongwith Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry (CIPI), Federation Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs (FOPE), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and SME Pharma Industries Confederation (SPIC) have worked out the 'Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices' (UCMP).